(c) A Task Force headed by Secretary (Health & Family Welfare) and officials of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Ministry of Tourism and experts in medical field has been constituted for promoting healthcare tourism in the country.

Security of Foreign Tourists

605. PROF.ALKABALRAMKSHATRIYA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to review the safety and security of foreign visitors in view of rise in number of rape and molestation cases across the country;

if so, the details thereof;

whether the Central Government propose to direct the State Government to ensure their proper safety;

if so, the details thereof; and

to what extent the recent incidents of rape and molestation of foreign visitors have affected the growth of tourism in the country?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) 'Public Order' and 'Police' are State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India. As such, the prevention of crime, including crimes against tourists, is the primary responsibility of State Governments/Union Territories. Following recent reports in the media regarding harassment and misbehaviour with tourists in India, the Ministry of Tourism discussed the isue of safety and security of tourists, amongst other issues, with Secretaries of Tourism of States/Union Territories, the Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Defence. During this meeting the feasibility of deploying the ex-servicemen as Tourist Wardens in States and Union Territories was also discussed. It was emphasised that ensuring the safety and security tourists is of paramount importance and State Governments/Union Territories must ensure the same.

(e) The foreign tourist arrival for the month of January 2008 has shown an increase of 9.9% over the same period of 2007.

India's Share in Global Tourists Flow

606. DR. PRAKASH PILAN1A: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

India's share in Global tourist inflow and foreign exchange earnings;

the number of foreign tourists who visited India, during the last three years, gender-wise;

the details of criminal incidents against foreign women tourists, during 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008, State-wise;

(d) the FIRs registered andtheir disposal;